

## Dustin Says Erica Is A Nerd: Rewritten by orphan\_account

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**Summary:**

This is a tweaked and slightly extended version of Erica and Dustin's talk, to explain why Erica acts the way she does, and to flesh out her personality more than just being "the sassy one."

## Dustin Says Erica Is A Nerd: Rewritten

"You need help with that?" I asked Dustin, referring to the fan he was trying to turn off so we could make our way through the air ducts. "No." He replied. "Well, I mean, it's taking you a while, so—" He cut me off. "Yeah, no shit, Sherlock." He said, annoyed. And people wonder why I'M annoyed all the time. I'm just trying to be helpful, but people having an attitude with me makes me have one with them.

"Right, so if we don't find the more efficient method to stop these fans, we're never gonna find help, and your ice cream buddies are screwed." I said. "Yeah, with that attitude they are, Jesus." He replied. "I'm just being realistic." I shot back. "I mean, we've made it about...zero point three miles in...nine hours...then we had to walk three hours down that tunnel, so I'd estimate ten hours back TO the elevator, which should take us approximately twelve and a half days." I said after a bit of thought.

"Did you just do all of that in your head?" He asked me. "I'm good with numbers." I answered. "Holy shit, you're a nerd." He exclaimed. "I'm not as much as a nerd as you are." I shot back. "Being a nerd isn't a BAD thing. Plus, you're enough of one for me to call you out on it." He said. "How so?" I asked.

"Let's see...you're a math wiz, apparently." He responded. "That was a pretty straight forward equation." I said, which was honestly a pretty nerdy thing to say. "You're a political junkie..." He continued. "Just because I don't agree with communism as an ideology-" I was cut off. "And you love My Little Pony." He said, pulling the backpack away from me, because the branding on it was proof that I did. "And what does My Little Pony have to do with this?" I questioned. "Centaurs, castles, dragons and magic are all standard nerd tropes. Ergo, My Little Pony is nerdy, ergo, you, Erica, are a nerd." He finished. "And how do you know so much about My Little Pony?" I asked. "Because...I'm....a nerd." He said, finally cutting off the power to the fans in the vents. "Let's go, nerd." He said.

Maybe I was a nerd after all. I guess I was making of the people that I related to most. Sometimes you just feel the need to fit into a stereotype that life pressures on you. We started crawling through the

vents again.

"If I really AM a nerd, maybe I should try to hang out with nerds some more." I said. "Well, nerds always like new members in their parties." Dustin replied. "Is that so?" I said, intrigued.